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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,647	01/23/2004	Bill L. Looper	38190/270316	9390
826	7590	07/15/2005	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			BAREFORD, KATHERINE A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1762		

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/763,647	LOOPER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Katherine A. Bareford	1762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 13, 17-19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted state of the prior art in view of Johnson (US 5893683).

The admitted state of the prior art teaches, at page 1 of the specification, that it is common to repair surface defects in a variety of workpieces, such as the skin of an aircraft. To repair the defect in an aircraft skin, for example, the area of the defect can be routed out, then the routed out area is grit blasted, then the area is filled using flame

sprayed aluminum. Then, the coated area is sanded, and polished, to achieve the desired final surface finish.

Claim 21: the workpiece can be an aircraft skin with a defect. Page 1.

Claim 22: the portion of the workpiece that has bee routed can be grit blasted prior to flame spraying, which would remove foreign particles. Page 1.

Claim 23: the workpiece that has been flame sprayed can be sanded and then polished. Page 1.

The admitted state of the prior art teaches all the features of these claims except the routing method.

Johnson teaches a router device that can be used to rout aircraft components. Column 1, lines 1-10. The router is provided with a cutter head 14, with, at the free end, a rounded corner and an axial depression in the form of a truncated cone. Column 2, lines 40-55 and figure 1. The router has a bit area with two cutting surfaces. Column 2, lines 45-55 and figure 2. To treat the substrate, the router can be plunged into the portion of the workpiece to be routed in a direction generally orthogonal to the workpiece to remove a portion of the workpiece as desired. Column 4, lines 20-35 and figure 5. The routed portion is defined by a sidewall extending generally orthogonal to the workpiece and a bottom surface. Column 4, lines 20-35 and figure 5. The cutting edges have a relief angle. Figures 2-3 and column 2, lines 45-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the admitted state of the prior art to use the routing

method of Johnson with the expectation of providing a desirably routed surface, because the admitted state the prior art teaches that it is well known to rout aircraft skin components in a defect area to allow for corrective application of a new flame sprayed coating, and Johnson teaches a desirable method for routing aircraft components using a router with two cutting surfaces and where the router plunges into the substrate. As to the angle of the cutting edges, Johnson provides that the cutting surfaces have relief angles, and one of ordinary skill in the art would perform routine experimentation to optimize the angle for the specific substrate and cutting to be performed.

4. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted state of the prior art in view of Johnson as applied to claims 13, 17-19 and 21-24 above, and further in view of Annigeri et al (US 2003/0100242) and David et al (US 2002/0168241).

The admitted state of the prior art in view of Johnson teaches all the features of these claims except (1) the use of the microstop countersink apparatus and depth control (claims 1, 14), (2) the controlling of the depth in predefined increments (claim 4, 16), (3) the diameter of the router bit (claim 7, 20), (4) the depth of the routing (claim 12, 25) and (5) the routed portion with a conical bottom surface (claim 17). Johnson also teaches that the routing depth can be controlled to permit removal in increments. Column 4, lines 25-30.

However, Annigeri teaches that when removing a damaged surface on a component for repair, it is desired to provide a controlled method that removes the damaged surface parts, but not the undamaged surface parts. Paragraphs [0011]–[0013]. Annigeri teaches to remove the damaged area by a mechanical method, grinding. Paragraphs [0011]–[0013]. Annigeri, for example, using a computer controlled system remove a specific area. Paragraphs [0018]–[0021].

David teaches a router apparatus system for removing damaged portions of aircraft skin. Abstract and paragraph [0004]. David teaches to provide for control of router based on the drilling/milling tool used, the material to be cut and its thickness, and the speed of movement of the router. Paragraph [0020]. The system can be controlled to provide precise depth of cuts into the skin. Paragraph [0021]. The depth of cut can be controlled to provide for vertical adjustments of micron sizing (0.001 inches) or finer to prevent damage. Paragraph [0030].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the admitted state of the prior art in view of Johnson to using a precisely controlled microstop router system to perform the damage area removal as suggested by Annigeri and David, in order to provide an optimally repaired article, because the admitted state of the prior art in view of Johnson teaches to use a router system to remove damaged aircraft skin for repair, and Annigeri teaches that when removing damaged surfaces for repair it is desired to control removal to remove precisely the damaged area only and David teaches a router system for aircraft ^{skin} ~~skill~~ that

can be controlled to remove precise areas desired. As to the use of countersink with the router, the it is the Examiner's position that countersink is conventionally used with routers and David teaches to use various commercially available routers (see paragraph [0030]), thus indicating that desirable results would be expected when using such a router. As to controlling the depth in predefined increments, this would be suggested when using the combination of references, because Johnson teaches to plunge in incrementally, and David teaches that depth can be controlled in 0.001 inch ranges, and the references suggest removing precisely controlled amounts. As to the diameter of the router bit, the depth of the routing, and the conical bottom surface, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to optimize these features, based on the specific router used, the material to be cut and its thickness, as the combination of prior art ^{to} teaches control the material removed based on the specific amount of damage present in the area to be repaired and to also base the operating conditions of the router on the specific router used, the material to be cut and its thickness.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine A. Bareford whose telephone number is (571) 272-1413. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(6:00-3:30) with the First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Other inquiries can be directed to the Tech Center 1700 telephone number at (571) 272-1700.

Furthermore, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kathleen B/F
KATHERINE BAREFORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER